

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05

PC-01 /118 W

-----048287 071817Z /45

R 071452Z JUL 78

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2522

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0816

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGSC MOPS, MILL, PINT, CG

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF PAN AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA

1. SUMMARY:: IN MEETING WITH COLONEL LOUBARIS COMMANDER OF PAN AFRICAN FORCE (PAF) ON JULY 6 HE PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS IN SOUTH SHABAN TOWNS. PAF CAMPS AND PATROLS HAVE REESTABLISHED SENSE OF SECURITY IN SHABA BUT AS YET THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONTACTS WITH ENEMY UNITS. PAF UNITS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE LOCAL POPULATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT INFILTRATION TO PREVENT FUTURE ATTACKS. LOUBARIS SAID ALL UNITS EXCEPT IVORY COAST MEDICAL CONTINGENT HAVE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT. FOOD SUPPLIES ARE SUFFICIENT FOR TWO MONTHS. LOUBARIS SAID HE DOES NOT HAVE TIME LIMIT ON DURATION OF PAF MISSION IN SHABA. END SUMMARY

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2. HEADQUARTERS FOR PAF UNDER COM

MAND OF MOROCCAN COLONEL LOUBARIS IS LOCATED IN LUBUMBASHI.

PAF TROOPS HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED CAMPS IN ALL OF

THE LARGER MINING TOWNS IN SOUTH SHABA. IN ALL TOWNS

EXCEPT KOLWEZI LOCAL COMMANDER IS FROM MOROCCAN

CONTINGENT.

3. IN KOLWEZI COMBINED FORCE OF ABOUT 600 MOROCCANS AND NEARLY THAT NUMBER OF SENEGALESE IS UNDER OVERALL COMMAND OF SENEGALESE COLONEL N'DOYE. MOROCCAN SUB COMMANDER IS COMMANDANT MOHAMMED-DIN. MOROCCAN CONTINGENTS INCLUDES TWO MOBILE STRIKE FORCE UNITS PREPARED TO MEET EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. MOROCCANS PATROLLING WITHIN 60 KILOMETER PERIMETER OF TOWN. LOUBARIS SAID MISSION IS AIMED TO REESTABLISH SECURITY IN SOUTH SHABA MINING TOWNS AND DOES NOT INCLUDE SEARCH ACTIVITIES BEYOND 60 KM PERIMETER. PAF HAS CLAMPED DOWN ON FAZ INDISCIPLINE AND LOUBARIS REPORTED THAT PRESENT LOOTING IN KOLWEZI IS MINIMAL. AS YET NO CONTACT WITH ANY FLNC FORCES

4. OTHER TOWNS: 300 MOROCCANS AND 180 TOGOLESE ARE AT LIKASI. AT KIPUSHI THERE ARE ABOUT 100 MOROCCANS AND THE ENTIRE CONTINGENT OF 45 GABONESE. OTHER MOROCCANS ARE STATIONED IN KAMBOVE AND LUBUMBASHI. THE IVORIAN MEDICAL TEAM HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO GECAMINES MEDICAL FACILITIES IN KOLWEZI, LIKASI AND LUBUMBASHI

5. FLNC PRESENCE: ALTHOUGH PAF PATROLS THUS FAR HAVE HAD NEGATIVE CONTACTS, LOUBARIS BELIEVES THAT REBELS FORCES REMAIN IN SHABA OUTSIDE THE 60 KM PERIMETER HE DID NOT HOWEVER CONSIDER THESE FLNC UNITS
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AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY FORCE BUT RATHER A GROUP OF BRIGANDS WHO PASSED THEIR TIME RUSTLING CATTLE AND PREYING ON THE LOCAL POPULACE.

6. INTELLIGENCE: LOUBARIS SAID MOROCCANS HAVE BEGUN TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ANY NEW INFILTRATION OR TROOP MOVEMENTS. AN ADEQUATE NETWORK OF INTELLIGENCE WOULD PREVENT A REPETITION OF A KOLWEZI STYLE ATTACK. IN ADDITION TO EXPLORING REBEL ACTIVITY IN BORDER AREAS HE HOPED THE URBAN POPULATION OF THE SOUTH SHABA TOWNS BOTH ZAIRIAN AND EXPATRIATE WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT REBEL PRESENCE TO HIS TROOPS. HE FOUND THE LOCAL URBAN COMMUNITY INDIFFERENT TO THE THREAT FROM ANGOLA BUT HOPED THEY COULD BE CONVINCED THAT THE PAF OFFERED SECURITY WHILE A VICTORY BY THE FLNC WOULD DESTROY LIFE AS THEY HAVE KNOWN IT IN SHABA. AS FIRST MEASURES TO DEVELOP CONFIDENCE OF POPULATION PAF IS MAKING STRONG STAND AGAINST STEALING BY FAZ TROOPS. WHEN CAUGHT ZAIRIAN SOLDIER IS TAKEN TO HIS COMMANDER WHERE CRIME IS MADE KNOWN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0816

OFFENDER AND COMMANDER ARE TOLD THAT IF SOLDIER IS
CAUGHT AGAI HE WILL BE KILLED. LOUBARIS SAID THIEVERY
HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

7. LOUBARIS BLAMED FAZ BEHAVIOR ON INCOMPETENT OFFICERS.
HE SAID DISCIPLINED SOLDIERS REQUIRED STRONG
ABLE OFFICERS. IN REORGANIZATION OF FAZ UNITS HE
RECOMMENDED THAT EXPATRIATES BE PUT IN CHARGE OF
PAY AND FOOD FOR ALL SOLDIERS.

8. AS FAR AS THE WELCOME HIS TROOPS WERE RECEIVING
FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION AND EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY
LOUBARIS NOTICED A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ATTITUDES
FROM LAST YEARS EVENTS. IN THE 80 DAY WAR
MANY ZAIRIANS AND EXPATRAITES HAD BEEN NEUTRAL AND
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SOMETIMES COLD TOWARDS THE MOROCCANS VIEWING INDIFFERENTLY THE CONTEST BETWEEN THE MOBUTU REGIME AND THE FLNC. AFTER KOLWEZI THERE WAS MUCH MORE COOPERATION WITH THE PAN AFRICAN FORCES. CONSEQUENTLY THE PAF TASKS OF PROVIDING SECURITY INCLUDING THE DISCIPLINING OF DISORDERLY FAZ TROOPS, WAS NOW LESS DIFFICULT. LOUBARIS AGREED WITH ESTIMATES THAT PAF HAD ACCOMPLISHED ITS INITIAL MISSION (IE RESTORATION OF CALM AND ORDERLY SITUATION IN MINING TOWNS) THE NEW ATMOSPHERE HE THOUGHT HAD ALSO BEEN CONDUCIVE TO BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND THE LOCAL POPULATION. AMONG HIS FORCES DISCIPLINE AND MORALE REMAINED HIGH AND THERE WERE NO FORESEEABLE PROBLEMS.

9. EQUIPMENT AND PROVISIONS. COLONEL LOUBARIS NOTED HE WAS GREATFUL FOR ALL ASSISTANCE US HAD PROVIDED IN RECENT AIRLIFT AND HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT OPERATION WAS ONE OF THE MOST SKILLFUL AND EFFICIENT HE HAD WITNESSED. ALL OF COMBAT UNITS HAVE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES AT PRESENT. MOROCCANS HAVE SUFFICIENT FOODS STOCKS TO SUPPLY PAN AFRICAN FORCE FOR TWO MONTHS. ADDITIONAL TWO MONTH SUPPLY IS UNDER PREPARATION IN MOROCCO. ONLY SUPPLY PROBLEMS HAS BEEN WITH IVORIAN MEDICAL TEAM, WHICH IS STILL WITHOUT JEEPS, BLANKETS AND COTS. ALTHOUGH THEIR FIELD ASSIGNMENTS HAD ALLEVIATED THE PROBLEM OF INACTIVITY. LOUBARIS THOUGHT THAT THE IVORIAN MEDICAL TEAM (5 DOCTORS AND 100 NURSES/MEDICS) WAS NOT THE MOST ESSENTIAL CONTINGENT OF THE PAF BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR DEPLOYMENT OUTSIDE OF LARGE TOWNS AND THE EXISTING HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL FACILITIES IN SHABAN TOWNS, BUT HE WAS DETERMINED TO PUT THEM TO THE BEST POSSIBLE USE.

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10. DURATION OF MISSION: LOUBARIS SAID HIS MISSION DID NOT HAVE TIME LIMIT, THEY WOULD STAY AS LONG AS THEY WERE NEEDED IN ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY A POLITICAL DECISION AND OUT OF HIS REALM, HE THOUGHT THAT DEPARTURE OF MOROCCANS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY DECISION OF GOZ.

11. COMMENT: COLONEL LOUBARIS GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF QUICK INTELLIGENCE AND TOTAL COMMAND OF THE SITUATION TEMPERED BY COMPASSION AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN SHABA MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POPULATION. TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS CAUSED BY THE WELL-DISCIPLINED PAF TROOPS. THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF SHABANS THAT THE PAF

HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATION IN REESTABLISHING QUICKLY A
SENSE OF SECURITY IN SOUTH SHABAN TOWNS. SINCE THERE
HAVE BEEN NO FLNC PROBLEMS THEIR PROWES HAS NOT
BEEN TESTED, BUT THEIR INITIAL BEHAVIOR INDICATES THAT
THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT SOUTH SHABAN TOWNS
FROM THE TYPE OF FORCE WHICH ATTACKED IN
1977- AND 1978.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB00816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780279-0597
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780786/aaaacuqy.tel
Line Count: 233
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec5de779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2089118
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTIVITIES OF PAN AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, PINT, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec5de779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014